

## Today's News - Friday, February 8, 2008

Is the Middle East "construction heaven" or a recipe for firms to become overcommitted? – Building boom in India a boon to architects (and architecture schools). – Hong Kong developers cashing in on starchitect cachet. – Boddy bemoans that the density debate in Vancouver is getting un-civil just as the rest of the world is championing "Vancouverization." – Parman protests: why does NYC get a "fresh Nouvel" while San Francisco settles for "Pelli's leftovers." – Hume fumes over "insider" jury for Sugar Beach plan pick. – Plans to build a city under Amsterdam's canals (if you can't float 'em, then sink 'em?). – A call to not discard historic buildings' natural sustainability in craze to build new green buildings. – U.K.'s National Trust has green plans for ancient castles. – This depressed us: "Studies deem biofuels a greenhouse threat." – Goldhagen marvels at Miralles's "truly revolutionary" ability to "slow complexity down" (unlike the "digitally besotted fortysomething generation of architects"). – A profile of the man who rescued La Maison Tropicale. – Weekend diversions: Farrell's "Blubberland" sure to stir things up. – "USA" by Wright is "a rich, inspiring and highly intelligent account of an exceedingly complex story." – Saga of FLW in NYC is "a cleverly written book and delicious read." – A Tokyo show of two Japanese architects working in China is "a brief historical moment in Sino-Japanese relations." – In D.C., photos of the city's "accidental architecture," and on view in Beirut, an anthology of modern architecture. – A rare tour of FLW's La Miniatura textile-block house in Pasadena.

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[Planet Gulf: construction heaven? Currently there are £92bn worth of construction projects...in the six Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\) countries...A further £462bn of projects are planned...so it is no surprise that Middle East clients are scouting the world for consultants and contractors...If you are not careful you will find yourself overcommitted...](#) - New Civil Engineer (UK)

[Booming real estate pushes up salaries of architects, even expats are in demand: Architects now play a critical role in areas such as evaluation of new projects, developing prototypes or liaisoning with national or overseas architect firms...](#) - The Economic Times (India)

[Hong Kong revels in high-end design: ...\[developers\] will only spend more on a star architect - and it always costs more - if there is money to be made and now it seems there is.](#) -- Zaha Hadid; Norman Foster; Andréa Putman- International Herald Tribune

[The density debate needs to be reinvigorated: Talk about residential density...is getting un-civil... What a strange world if Vancouver derails its experiment with density...just as the rest of the planet has turned us into a verb, speaking of "Vancouverizing" their sprawl into compact urbanity.](#) By Trevor Boddy- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Protest: NY Gets Fresh Nouvel While SF Gets Pelli's Leftovers. How Come? Transbay Tower reminds me of the new east span of the Bay Bridge, a chance squandered to do something on a par with the Golden Gate....it makes me wince.](#) By John Parman [images]- The Architect's Newspaper (Los Angeles)

[Latest waterfront fiasco: Umbrellas and sand pit: It may be too late for the Jarvis St. Slip...but the waterfront can absorb a certain amount of mediocrity before it hits the point of no return. Let's hope we learn from the mistakes and manage not to repeat them.](#) By Christopher Hume -- Claude Cormier; Janet Rosenberg; Ned Kahn- Toronto Star

[£1bn 'city beneath a city' planned for Amsterdam: Lack of space and high land prices drive engineers to plan 1 million m<sup>2</sup> project under canals...six-level underground development to provide retail, leisure and parking facilities...called Amfora... – Strukton; Zwarts & Jansma \[images\]- Building \(UK\)](#)

[That Old Building May Be the Greenest on the Block: Architects must understand that new green buildings are but one of the factors along with historic and natural resource integration that provides the full answer to a sustainable built environment.](#) By James T. Kienle, FAIA [links]- AIAArchitect

[The 1,000-year-old castle fighting climate change: ...generating green electricity from solar panels tucked away behind its battlements...Lessons learned at Dunster are to be used across the National Trust's properties.](#) - Guardian (UK)

[Studies Deem Biofuels a Greenhouse Threat: ...cause more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuels if the full emissions costs of producing these "green" fuels are taken into account "...land use problem is not just a secondary effect..."](#)- New York Times

[Making Waves: Miralles and his partners, like Gehry, and like the digitally besotted fortysomething generation of architects, revel in complexity. But then Miralles and his partners do a truly revolutionary thing: they slow complexity down.](#) By Sarah Williams Goldhagen (for The New Republic) – Miralles/Piños (1984 to 1991); Benedetta Tagliabue/EMBT Architects- SarahWilliamsGoldhagen.com

[House hunting: Eric Touchélaume has been called the Indiana Jones of furniture collecting...one of his most extraordinary acquisitions: a house designed by...Jean Prouvé...Maison Tropicale...next challenge is the restoration of a building by another neglected modern architect, Robert Mallet Stevens. By Steve Rose- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Book review: Telling good blubber from bad: 'Blubberland: The Dangers of Happiness': "If we were to design a green settlement... from scratch, the product would not be suburbia, or urban villages, or Greek fishing towns or even, say, Barcelona. It would be](#)

[Manhattan." Elizabeth Farrelly can always be relied on to stir things up. By Peter Davey- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Book review: "USA: Modern Architectures In History" by Gwendolyn Wright: The secret history of American modernism...a rich, inspiring and highly intelligent account of an exceedingly complex story.- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Book review: Frank's Last Stand: "Frank Lloyd Wright in New York: The Plaza Years, 1954–1959," by Jane King Hession and Debra Pickrel...a cleverly written book and delicious read. Which raises the question: A half a century has passed since his death, why hasn't there been another Wright?- AIArchitect](#)

[Two Japanese Architects in China: "REALIZE -- Emerging from China to the World: Keiichiro Sako / Hironori Matsubara" at Gallery MA \(Tokyo\) is the most timely and exciting in recent memory...for the symbolic and actual importance of the careers of the two architects on display...capturing a brief historical moment in Sino-Japanese relations... By Thomas Daniell Matsubara- Artscape \(Japan\)](#)

[Beauty Isn't Skin-Deep, It's in Buildings' Bones: In AIA Exhibition, Photographer James Stokoe Tips His Hard Hat to the 'Accidental Architecture' of Washington Construction Sites. By Philip Kennicott \[slide show\]- Washington Post](#)

[Framing the charisma of modern architecture: "Lightscapes: A Photographic Anthology of Modern Architecture" by Nagib Khazaka on display at Beirut's Goethe Institute, features dramatic, occasionally sensual and always detailed 'portraits' of buildings- Daily Star \(Lebanon\)](#)

[Tour shows off the blocks architect Wright played with: La Miniatura in Pasadena, the first of four textile-block houses Frank Lloyd Wright designed and built in the L.A. area...flawed jewel of a structure...- Los Angeles Times](#)

[A Bridge Between: California Academy of Sciences and Steinhart Aquarium Transition Facility: So just where has Nemo been living while the new academy rises in Golden Gate Park? -- Melander Architects- ArchNewsNow](#)

[-- Foster + Partners: Khanty Mansiysk, Siberia, Russia  
-- Manfredi Nicoletti: Arezzo Law Court, Arezzo, Italy](#)

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